

minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. MYRICK. Mr. Speaker, Monday marked the cut-off date for all seniors to sign up for the new Medicare prescription drug plan. And I am happy to announce that more than 38 million seniors, representing more than 90 percent of all seniors on Medicare, now have coverage for prescription drugs.

We created this program because seniors were having to choose between their prescriptions and paying their bills, and now they do not have to make those sacrifices to get the medicines that they need.

I also want to take a moment to thank the countless organizations who helped them and made sure that they signed up for the right plan. They walked them through the process, and I applaud them for that. It was very helpful. And, again, now more than 38 million seniors have coverage for prescription drugs. They have it because we made a promise, and we kept it.

DARFUR, SUDAN

(Mr. AL GREEN of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, a tragedy of the highest magnitude exists in Darfur in Sudan, Africa.

Mr. Speaker, over 450,000 have died; 2.5 million have been displaced internally; 200,000 have fled to Chad; 3 million, Mr. Speaker, are living on emergency aid.

Mr. Speaker, this tragedy exists for two reasons: One, people of ill will, the actions of these people of ill will; and two, the inactions of people of good will.

Mr. Speaker, it is time for people of goodwill to take a stand and realize that injustice anywhere, as Dr. King put it, is a threat to justice everywhere. And injustice in Sudan in Africa is a threat to justice in America.

BORDER SECURITY

(Mrs. BLACKBURN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, the American people have reached a consensus on the border security issue; so I find it very hard to understand why we here in Washington are having trouble doing the same.

Outside the Beltway people think it is perfectly reasonable to build a wall to protect the border. They do not see a problem with installing surveillance technology to monitor the border. They do not support amnesty.

It is only here where the pundits rule, and in the New York newsrooms, that we see such hand wringing on the border security issue. An op-ed in The Washington Post called people concerned about illegal immigration "nativists." Apparently, worrying about border security and the rule of law

makes one a nativist. I find that it is a sad statement on the attitude of those opposed to beefing up our border security.

I ask my colleagues to join me to look past the pundits, past the liberal editorial pages, and do what the vast majority of Americans want done: Secure the border and do it without amnesty.

REPUBLICAN BUDGET INCREASES DEBT WITH NO PLAN TO BALANCE BUDGET

(Mr. SALAZAR asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. SALAZAR. Mr. Speaker, 6 years ago our Nation was in a secure financial position. We had a balanced budget, a pay-as-you-go system for funding government programs, and a record surplus of \$5.6 trillion.

Now after years of imposing their reckless fiscal policies on this country, the administration and Congress have squandered our reserves, and their policies have created a record \$3.2 trillion debt.

Not only that, but under this watch the cost of living for average Americans has gone up significantly. In just the last few years alone, gas prices have reached \$3 a gallon, fuel costs for farmers have gone up 113 percent, and the interest rate has risen more than 16 times.

But just when you think things cannot get any worse, the leaders of this body put forward a shameful budget resolution that makes no attempt to bring our Nation's finances back into balance. Instead, their irresponsible fiscal record continues full steam ahead. The proposed 2007 budget will increase the deficit even further with no plan to ever return to balance in the future.

Mr. Speaker, this budget resolution may be more of the same, but Americans know it is time for change.

IMMIGRATION REFORM

(Mr. MCHENRY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. MCHENRY. Mr. Speaker, the U.S. House last year in December did the right thing and passed a strong immigration reform bill that increases border security and takes amnesty off the table.

Now it is time for the Senate to respond to the growing problem of illegal immigration and do what is best for legal immigrants and citizens of this country.

I am encouraged by President Bush's plan to increase our security by positioning National Guard troops on our southern border. This will provide essential, but temporary, security along our porous and vulnerable borders.

However, the better alternative is to enact a comprehensive border security program like the House bill by con-

structing fences, bolstering our Border Patrols, and improving our surveillance capabilities.

Additionally, a guest worker program is nothing more than amnesty wearing makeup. It is easier to look at, but it is still ugly underneath. The simple truth is that if you break the law to come to this country, you will not respect it once you are here.

STROKE AWARENESS MONTH/STOP STROKE ACT

(Mrs. CAPPS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, I wish to remind my colleagues today that May is Stroke Awareness Month.

Throughout this month we recognize the millions of Americans struggling with the effects of stroke, and we recommit ourselves to helping them. We also acknowledge the efforts of organizations, like the American Stroke Association, which provide leadership, helping all of us to prevent and treat stroke.

On average every 45 seconds, someone in the United States has a stroke, and someone dies from stroke every 3 minutes. Representative PICKERING and I have introduced the Stroke Treatment and Ongoing Prevention Stroke Act, H.R. 898, the STOP Stroke Act, which now has the support of 132 of our colleagues. This legislation will increase awareness, provide critical resources to implement stroke care systems. The legislation will help ensure that patients recognize the symptoms of stroke and treat it as a medical emergency. We want to ensure that hospitals and other health care providers provide timely, lifesaving treatment that reduces disability from stroke and the need for extensive rehabilitation.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill and all efforts which address the scourge of stroke.

HYPOCRISY HAS CROSSED THE BORDER

(Mr. KELLER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. KELLER. Mr. Speaker, hypocrisy has crossed the border. Mexico has its own serious illegal immigration problem. Hundreds of thousands of illegal immigrants are coming across Mexico's southern border from Guatemala and other Central American countries.

What do Mexico's politicians say about it? They say these illegals are overcrowding Mexico's hospitals and schools. They say they are taking away jobs from Mexican citizens. They say it poses a security threat to Mexico.

In other words, they sound like the Minutemen.

What did Mexico do about it? Did they put out a welcome mat? Did they grant everyone citizenship? No. They got tough. Mexico put their military at the southern border to stop illegals.